

REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of March 29, 2004.

Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-3, 6-12 and 15-18 remain in this application. Claims 4-5, 13-14 and 19-20 have been canceled.

The disclosure is objected to because of typographical informalities.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bartok (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,553).

Brief Summary of the Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 10 and 17 have been amended to further comply with the enablement requirement and also to further distinguish the claims.

Claims 4-5, 13-14 and 19-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Comments/Arguments

The disclosure has been amended as per the Examiners suggestion and is now in proper form. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit the disclosure is presently acceptable.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as the Examiner indicated the subject matter "a location designated therein the pixel color map which triggers the computer program function" was not properly described to allow one enabled in the art to use the invention.

Applicants respectfully submit the language of the cited claim is taught in the application. Particularly, on page 3, paragraph 18, it is noted that the color values of the white 12 and black 14 squares are mapped to an identical offscreen action bitmap, to a lookup table or other offscreen design which associates the color values with a program algorithm designed to perform an operator desired function by the computer system. Thus, this paragraph and other areas within the specification

show that when a selected location of the pixel color map is selected (e.g., a white square), the system in one embodiment correlates that color value in a lookup table to a particular algorithm or application to be operated. Such pointers or lookup tables are well known within the art and are well within the capability of any programmer. It is also stated that "it has not been described how a desired image or icon is mapped to the pixel color bitmap. For example, on Figure 2 or Figure 3 how these images are mapped." Applicants respectfully traverse this position. The mapping is accomplished as described in the specification by the coloring of a particular area of an image or icon. This can be accomplished with any simple graphics program which creates images. For example, with attention to Figure 3, this image was particularly provided to show that the structured requirements of the prior art as discussed in the Background of the Invention are not necessary. Rather, when pixel color values at a mouse coordinate equal a designated color, actions such as changing cursor positions and allowing hyperlinks to be followed are performed by the browser. (paragraph 7). It is also noted that in paragraph 6, "[t]he operator interface application includes a pixel color map with sensitive regions which are color dependent. The operator interface application is programmed to acquire samples of the pointing device signal and process the signal to perform commands based on pixel color values." (paragraph 6). Therefore, the mapping of the images, such as Figure 2 or Figure 3, are dependent on the color values placed at a certain location. These color values are provided in a lookup table or a matching action bitmap table where mapping to particular applications or other operations is accomplished.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit the specification clearly provides support for one of ordinary skill in the art.

However, as further evidence, it is noted that in paragraph 18,

The pixel color map operator interface eliminates the need for geographic mapping of a single bitmap or the conglomeration of several bitmaps. By basing selection and activation on the color value of a selected pixel, it becomes easier to specify and perform actions for selection of specific areas of an image. The display image pixel color values are used directly as the action map or an offscreen bitmap can be used as the action map for the displayed one. In any event, it is the selected pixel color value which determines the function performed by the computer system running the application program.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to further describe how a desired image is mapped to a pixel color bitmap. In addition, claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 19 and 20, which contained the subject matters of "analog output", "digital output", "analog function" and "digital function", have been canceled. The Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are presently in proper form, that the enablement requirement has been met and that all first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections be withdrawn.

The Claims Distinguish Over the Prior Art

In order to further distinguish over the prior cited art, Bartok (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,553), independent claims 1 and 17 have also been amended. The Applicants respectfully submit that nowhere in Bartok does it teach or fairly suggest the use of Java applets with JPEG and GIF bitmaps in an operator interface program as now set forth in claims 1 and 17. By use of these technologies, the present application permits the use of anonymous image data and generates execution speeds which are faster than existing systems. The approach of this embodiment allows the operator to use interactive graphics and sensitive region data to support application-specific interactions. Additionally, this technique keeps the displayed image isolated from the application and preserves the cross-platform capabilities of the pixel color map application. Such is not taught or fairly suggested in the cited art.

Also, it is submitted by the applicants that Bartok neither teaches nor fairly suggests that diagnostics be performed as the computer program functions or applications as recited in dependent claims 6, 16 and 18.

Applicant has amended claim 10 and claim 21, wherein it is taught that an algorithm is mapped to a plurality of pixel color values and performs a same computer program function for each of the plurality of pixel color values. For example, as noted in the checkerboard square of Figure 1, each of the color blocks that are white will actuate the same computer program/algorithm. Therefore, in an image or icon, a desired program can be activated from different active areas. For example, in Figure 1 with the checkerboard square, the upper left-hand shaded block may cause program 1 to become functional. Similarly, the lower, left-hand shaded block will cause the same program to be activated. Therefore, if a more complex image is desired where certain regions dispersed from each other are to activate the same program, this capability is taught in the present application. Such a concept is not taught or fairly considered in the cited reference. For this reason, it

is respectfully submitted claim 21 is distinguished from the cited art.

As noted independent claim 10 has been amended to also include the concept of separate areas in a color bitmap having the same pixel color value causing a same computer program function to operate. For this reason, it is believed independent claim 10 is also distinguished. Therefore, independent claims 1, 10 and 17 and claims 2, 3, 6-9, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 18, which depend from claims 1, 10 and 17, are in condition for allowance.

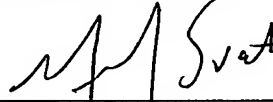
CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-3, 6-12, 15-18, and 21) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Mark S. Svat, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582:

Respectfully submitted,

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Date